

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 17 (canceled)

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of determining resource placement, comprising:
2 determining a set of business objectives for one or more candidate locations;
3 developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;
4 performing value chain analyses ~~for a product or service to be provided~~ related to the set
5 of business objectives, thereby determining what types of resources will potentially improve the
6 analyzed value chain;
7 developing cost factors pertaining to placing the determined resources in the candidate
8 locations;
9 programmatically computing a value using the business objectives, according to the
10 developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors, and using the
11 programmatically-computed value to programmatically select a particular location from among
12 the candidate locations; and
13 assigning the determined resources to the programmatically-selected particular location.

1 Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the computing
2 further comprises estimating and accounting for any lag time characteristics discovered while
3 performing the value chain analyses.

1 Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned

resources are information technology personnel.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned resources comprise monetary investments in the particular location.

Claims 22 - 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): A system for assigning resources, comprising:

a computer comprising a processor;

a set of business objectives for one or more candidate locations;

one or more objective measurements for each business objective;

results of value chain analyses performed ~~for a product or service to be provided~~ related to the set of business objectives, the results usable for determining what types of resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;

cost factors pertaining to placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;

instructions which are executable on the computer, using the processor, to implement functions comprising:

programmatically computing a value, using the business objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors; and

using the programmatically-computed value to programmatically select a particular location from among the candidate locations[[: and]], thereby enabling assignment of ~~assigning~~ the determined resources for placement in the programmatically-selected particular location.

Claims 29 - 31 (canceled)